

ABSTRACT

The ball retrieval and storage device includes a container having a hollow interior for storing a substantial number of tennis balls. At least a portion of the container bottom is formed by one or more movable rod members which are movable to allow the balls to enter through the bottom of the container. A user can retrieve a ball lying on the ground by forcing the bottom of the container down over the top of the ball. The ball engages the movable rod member and moves it slightly upwardly which allows the ball to enter the container as the container is progressively forced down over the top of the ball compressing the ball. ~~The movable rod member ultimately passes the equator of the ball and a stop means mounted on the container limits the upward movement of the movable rod member. The raised movable rod member thus is held momentarily in a fixed position by a stop means to allow a major portion of the ball to pass through the opening in the container bottom. The movable rod member is then automatically released from the contact with the ball and the stop means to drop to its closed position to provide a portion of the container bottom which will retain the ball in the container.~~ The movable rod members are formed of a material having an elastic memory such that for use over time, the movable rod members will not permanently deform so as to decrease the efficacy of the ball retrieval and storage device.